



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Issued by the Department of Transportation on April 29, 1999

NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN -- DOCKET OST-99-5393

This serves as notice to the public of the action described below, taken by the Department official indicated (no additional confirming order will be issued in this matter).

Applicant: **Britannia Airways, AB**

Date Filed: March 19, 1999, as amended April 28, 1999

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 U.S.C. 41301 to conduct 26 roundtrip passenger charter flights between Norway/Sweden and Ft. Lauderdale, FL, during the period April 29 - October 21, 1999, on behalf of Fritidsresor.

The carrier stated that approval was necessary to avoid hardship to already-booked, Scandinavia-originating passengers. It also stated that it will not request additional authority to conduct operations in 1999, and that it does not seek to rely on the automatic extension provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act (5 U.S.C. 558(c)).

Applicant representative: Lester Bridgeman 334-432-1414

Responsive pleadings: None

DISPOSITION

Action: Approved

Action date: April 29, 1999

Effective dates of authority granted: April 29, 1999 - October 21, 1999 ¹

Basis for approval: The type of charter authority requested is encompassed in the U.S.-Norway/Sweden Air Transport Services Agreements. Britannia AB, a Swedish carrier, has been properly designated by its government under the U.S.-Sweden Agreement. We found, based on the record, that the applicant is operationally and financially qualified to conduct the proposed services, and properly licensed. Further, the FAA has advised us that it knows of no reason to withhold this authority. However, Britannia AB requested a waiver of our citizenship requirements, stating that it is owned through a series of 100% wholly-owned subsidiaries, by Thompson Travel Group Plc, a publicly-held U.K. corporation. ² Given the substantial U.K. ownership in the applicant, we were not prepared to grant Britannia AB the type of broad charter authority that would normally be available to carriers of Sweden under our open skies agreement with that country, and that Britannia AB had originally requested in this docket. We did find, however, that, taking into account the applicant's specific commitments on the record and all the circumstances presented, we could, consistent with the public interest, approve the more limited 26-flight request now before us in order to avoid hardship to the passengers booked for these flights. We put Britannia AB on notice that, in the absence of a change to its U.K. ownership situation, we do not intend to approve any further requests for authority.

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations indicated:

X Standard exemption conditions (attached) ___ Foreign air carrier permit conditions (Order - -)

Action taken by: Paul L. Gretch, Director, Office of International Aviation

Under authority assigned by the Department in its regulations, 14 CFR Part 385, we found that (1) immediate action was required and was consistent with Department policy; (2) grant of the authority was consistent with the public interest; and (3) grant of the authority would not constitute a major regulatory action under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975. To the extent not granted/deferred/dismissed, we denied all requests in the referenced Docket. We may amend, modify, or revoke the authority granted in this Notice at any time without hearing at our discretion.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of the action set forth in this Notice under the Department's regulations, 14 CFR §385.30, may file their petitions within ten (10) days after the date of issuance of this Notice. This action was effective when taken, and the filing of a petition for review will not alter such effectiveness.

An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at: http://dms.dot.gov/reports/reports_aviation.asp

¹ Since the term of the authority we are granting here is for a period of fewer than 180 days, this authority is not a license with reference to an activity of a continuing nature under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 558(c) as implemented by 14 CFR 377 of our regulations.

² Britannia incorporated by reference into this proceeding its foreign air carrier permit application filed in Docket OST-99-5385.

FOREIGN AIR CARRIER CONDITIONS OF AUTHORITY

In the conduct of the operations authorized, the holder shall:

- (1) Not conduct any operations unless it holds a currently effective authorization from its homeland for such operations, and it has filed a copy of such authorization with the Department;
- (2) Comply with all applicable requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration, including, but not limited to, 14 CFR Parts 129, 91, and 36;
- (3) Comply with the requirements for minimum insurance coverage contained in 14 CFR Part 205, and, prior to the commencement of any operations under this authority, file evidence of such coverage, in the form of a completed OST Form 6411, with the Federal Aviation Administration's Program Management Branch (AFS-260), Flight Standards Service (any changes to, or termination of, insurance also shall be filed with that office);
- (4) Not operate aircraft under this authority unless it complies with operational safety requirements at least equivalent to Annex 6 of the Chicago Convention;
- (5) Conform to the airworthiness and airman competency requirements of its Government for international air services;
- (6) Except as specifically exempted or otherwise provided for in a Department Order, comply with the requirements of 14 CFR Part 203, concerning waiver of Warsaw Convention liability limits and defenses;
- (7) Agree that operations under this authority constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity, for the purposes of 28 U.S.C. 1605(a), but only with respect to those actions or proceedings instituted against it in any court or other tribunal in the United States that are:
 - (a) based on its operations in international air transportation that, according to the contract of carriage, include a point in the United States as a point of origin, point of destination, or agreed stopping place, or for which the contract of carriage was purchased in the United States; or
 - (b) based on a claim under any international agreement or treaty cognizable in any court or other tribunal of the United States.

In this condition, the term "international air transportation" means "international transportation" as defined by the Warsaw Convention, except that all States shall be considered to be High Contracting Parties for the purpose of this definition;

- (8) Except as specifically authorized by the Department, originate or terminate all flights to/from the United States in its homeland;
- (9) Comply with the requirements of 14 CFR Part 217, concerning the reporting of scheduled, nonscheduled, and charter data;
- (10) If charter operations are authorized, comply (except as otherwise provided in the applicable bilateral agreement) with the Department's rules governing charters (including 14 CFR Parts 212 and 380); and
- (11) Comply with such other reasonable terms, conditions, and limitations required by the public interest as may be prescribed by the Department, with all applicable orders or regulations of other U.S. agencies and courts, and with all applicable laws of the United States.

This authority shall not be effective during any period when the holder is not in compliance with the conditions imposed above. Moreover, this authority cannot be sold or otherwise transferred without explicit Department approval under Title 49 of the U.S. Code (formerly the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended).